Message Text

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DRAFTED BY H:KBJENKINS:RMS

APPROVED BY H - KEMPTON JENKINS, ACTING
NEA - MR. ATHERTON (SUBS)

S/S - MR. BRIDGES
P - MR. HABIB (PHONE)

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O 232050Z SEP 76 ZFF4 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 236589 TOSEC 270648

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), POL, SA, MASS

SUBJECT: MAVERICKS FOR SAUDI ARABIA

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM H-JENKINS (ACTING)

- 1. AS PER MY PHONE CONVERSATION WITH LARRY ON THE PLANE TODAY, THE MAVERICKS TO SAUDI ARABIA ISSUE IS CONTINUING TO BOIL. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF ADVANCE INDICATIONS THAT JAVITS, HUMPHREY AND CASE WOULD BE APPROACHING THE PRESIDENT AND YOU TO OBTAIN EXECUTIVE BRANCH SUPPORT TO WITHDRAW LOA FOR 650 MAVERICKS TO SAUDI ARABIA IN EXCHANGE FOR SUPPORT FOR THE REST OF THE LOA'S BEFORE THE COMMITTEES, CHUCK ROBINSON DISCUSSED THIS WITH BRENT LAST NIGHT. BRENT STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT WE WOULD NOT RETREAT FROM THE 650 LEVEL.
- 2. NOW HUMPHREY'S OFFICE HAS JUST PHONED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO YOU ON THIS SUBJECT:

"FROM HUMPHREY TO KISSINGER:

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"THE COMMITTEE IS MEETING FRIDAY, SEPT 24 AT 10A.M. TO DISCUSS RESOLUTIONS OF DISAPPROVAL PERTAINING TO 43 LETTERS OF OFFER. A MOTION TO DISAPPROVE THE MAVERICK SALE TO

SAUDI ARABIA IS EXPECTED TO BE OFFERED AND, IN MY JUDGMENT, THERE ARE ENOUGH VOTES IN THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY THIS MOTION FAVORABLY. I FORMALLY REQUEST THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WITHDRAW THIS LETTER OF OFFER TO SAUDI ARABIA SO AS NOT TO EMBARRASS THE SAUDIS AS WELL AS DISRUPTING OUR RELATIONS WITH THAT IMPORTANT COUNTRY. SENATOR JAVITS AND I INTEND TO TALK TO THE PRESIDENT ABOUT THIS MATTER PRIOR TO THE COMMITTEE'S SESSION.

"PLEASE CONVEY AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST BY 8A.M. WASHINGTON TIME FRIDAY, SEPT 24.

"I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR EFFORTS TO SEEK PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. I SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS AND WISH YOU WELL.

"PLEASE HAVE BILL RICHARDSON OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF ADVISED OF YOUR DECISION.#

- 3. FRIEDERSDORF AND SCOWCROFT ARE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE CASE TO SUPPORT THE 650 LEVEL WHICH, AFTER ALL, HAD BEEN ARRIVED AT IN CONSULTATION WITH JAVITS, HUMPHREY AND CASE. MAX ALSO IS REMINDING HUMPHREY OF HIS PREVIOUS AGREEMENT TO THE 650 LEVEL.
- 4. WHILE HUMPHREY MAY BE RIGHT IN HIS PREDICTION, ROY ATHERTON BELIEVES THAT WE WOULD LOSE MORE IN JIDDA FROM A WITHDRAWAL AT THIS TIME, THAN WE WOULD FROM A CONGRESSIONAL DEFEAT.
- 5. PHIL HABIB AND ROY ATHERTON CONCUR. ROBINSON

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TAGS: OVIP, MASS, SA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY

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